

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25, 29-31, 33-41, 59-76, 80-82, and 84-89 are pending. Claims 1, 33, 59, and 84 have been amended. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-25, 29-31, 33-41, 59-76, 80-82, and 84-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant submits that the independent claims 1 and 59, as amended, recite process steps that are functionally related. Applicant thus submits that the independent claims and their dependent claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-25, 29-31, 33-41, 59-76, 80-82, and 84-89 now comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Distinguishing features of the invention claimed in claims 1 and 59, as identified by Examiner, are found in functional descriptive material and are functionally involved in the process steps recited. Accordingly, all pending claims should be allowed for at least this reason.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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